

FACT

No Palestinian land was stolen

The Arab leadership testified to both the Hope Simpson Commission 1930 & the Peel Commission 1937 that all land in the geography known today as Israel, formerly Palestine had been legally purchased. The buyers were individuals & Jewish & Zionist organisations. There were 5 classes of land Mulk, Miri, Waqf, Metruke or Mewat. Mulk was freehold, Miri leasehold. Waqf was land under the protection of religious authorities & Metruke & Mewat was state land and wasteland owned ONLY by the state. These two categories accounted for approx 80 percent of the total geography & desert, forest, swamps, roads etc were all part of these 2 categories & this land was designated under international legally binding agreements to form part of the Jewish Homeland.

Mulk or freehold accounted for a total of just 1% of land ownership & all Mulk land was acquired legally. Miri or leasehold formed approximately 17 percent of the total land and in order to retain title the fellahin peasant farmers had to prove 3 consecutive years of agricultural production and pay land taxes. As a result of malaria and drought, the fellahin could not achieve the productivity levels required nor could they afford the punitive taxes. Moreover Arab ruling families and Bedouin clans realising the land price rises as a result of the Zionist zeal for land ownership drove the fellahin from their farms. Millions of dunams of Miri land was legally acquired from Syrian, Lebanese & Ottoman ruling families and clans and all documented. Moreover the leases were then extended from 3 years to 50 years for the Zionist farming collectives to achieve their agricultural production objectives.

One of the reasons for the mass immigration into the geography during this period of land purchasing was simply non resident Arabs leveraging up on the economic benefits and improved living standards created by the Zionists skill in agricultural development. Sir Winston Churchill made several references to this in Parliament as did numerous Arab politicians. The Encyclopaedia Britannica even recorded this mass Arab immigration 1911.

The Lebanese Sarsaq, El - Salam families & Anthony & Michel El - Tynan from Syria are examples of those who sold millions of dunams to Jewish buyers. The Fellahin owned no land according to land registry records.

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